METHODS

The 67 indicators presented in this report are individual measures of the various dimensions or facets of health status. By calculating overall scores and rankings it is possible to provide a summary measure representing a relative standing of each ethnic group on a broad range of health status issues.

Scores indicate the percentage an ethnic group is above or below the statewide average. Each score is calculated as follows:

$$SCORE = \left(\frac{\text{The value of a rate or ratio in a Specified Group}}{\text{The average value of a rate or ratio for the State}} - 1.0 \right) \times 100$$

Scores may have positive (+) or negative (-) values. The above formula produces a score of 0.0 for a group with the same value as the statewide average. A negative score indicates better than average standing on an indicator.

The age-adjusted mortality rates presented in section 5 and section 6 of this report were computed by the direct method, i.e. by applying the age-specific death rates to the standard population distributed by age. The total U.S. population as enumerated in 1940 was selected as the standard.